

DEAR DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



LIGHTNERS/MCCLUNG'S CAVE

VOL. #30

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2015

#101



SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP ---- \$50/YEAR
(SUSTAINING-\$50/yr until \$200 total is met)
(FULL FAMILY-must be NSS)(Voting rights if over 16)
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Payment of DUES can be made at MONTHLY MEETINGS
or can be SENT TO:

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*** The cover photo this month was taken by Nikki
Fox in McClungs Cave, Greenbrier Co, WV.

**** Don't forget, the **JONES QUARRY BOOKLET** is
STILL available at a reasonable price **\$6.00**. If you don't have
it in your library, then YOU MUST GET IT. It is PACKED
with info about the QUARRY, the CAVE, the INDIAN
BONES, and of course the **MAP!** If you are interested in
purchasing the BOOKLET, contact **BOB BENNETT 304-**
821-4621(H) or 304-671-0344(C) E-MAIL at
gimpycaver@comcast.net

**WE NEED EVERYONE TO KEEP THINKING ABOUT
VOLUNTEERING FOR AN OPEN POSITION. WE
STILL NEED SOMEONE FOR THE FOLLOWING
POSITIONS: PROGRAM CHAIR
PLEASE GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT. WE NEED YOUR
SUPPORT!**



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GROTTTO.

All material for inclusion in the **DEAD DOG**
DISPATCH must be sent to the EDITOR NO BY THE
25TH OF EACH MONTH.

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FULL MEMBERSHIP ----- \$10.00 (Must be NSS)
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FAMILY MEMBERSHIP ----- \$2.00/FAMILY
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ---- \$200.00

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CAVIN EVENTS

2015

JUL 31- Aug 2 -- Mudfest - Lincoln Caverns, PA
AUG 1 ---- Annual TSG picnic - Blue Ridge Acres river
from - 12 pm until 6pm
Aug 7-9 --- Indiana Cave Capers
AUG 12 ---- TSG meeting - 7pm
AUG 15 ---- Adam Stephen Dig - 9:30 am
AUG 27 ---- OTR Preregistration Ends
AUG 29 --- Boy Scout Powder Horn - see Bob B
SEP 3-7 ---- OTR
SEP 7 ---- LABOR DAY
SEP 11---- PATRIOT'S DAY
SEP 13 ---- GRAND PARENT'S DAY
SEP 23 ---- AUTUMN EQUINOX
OCT 8-11 -- Fall TAG Cave-IN
OCT 12 ---- COLUMBUS DAY
OCT 14 ---- TSG meeting - 7pm - Annual Auction
OCT 17 ---- Bridge Day
OCT 31 --- ALL HALLOW EVE (HALLOWEEN)
NOV 1 ---- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
NOV 3 ---- ELECTION DAY
NOV 11 ---- VETERAN'S DAY
NOV 11 ---- TSG MEETING - 7PM - Nomination of Grotto
officers
NOV 14 ---- SADIE HAWKINS DAY
NOV 26 ---- THANKSGIVING DAY
NOV 27 ---- BLACK FRIDAY

2016

JUL 17-23 --- NSS Convention -- Ely, NV

***** CAVE BUCKS *****

CAVE BUCKS is a voluntary donation for cave purchases. The money is collected at each monthly meeting and sent to the Conservancy of choice. The money SHOULD NEVER be kept past the week it is collected.

Month of July ----- \$19.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$5934.50

The money was sent to the

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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New River Preserve!
Keep It Coming!

WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

Tri-State Grotto ----- www.tristategrotto.net/
VAR ----- www.varegion.org/
NSS ----- www.caves.org/
NSS Convention 2015 ----- <http://nss2015.caves.org>
OTR ----- www.otr.org/
MAR ----- www.caves.org/region/mar/
WVCC ----- www.wvcc.net/
Andy Celmer ----- www.tristategrotto.net/Andy/
Bob's Web Site ----- www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/
Jerry's Cave Web Site -----
----- <http://www.caves.org/member/jerry/>
Vitas Eidukevicius ----- www.tristategrotto.net/Vitas/
David Hackley's Web Site -----
----- <http://s180.photobucket.com/albums/x307/clearsig/>
Bob Gulden ----- www.caverbob.com/home.htm/
Rock Climbing Knots Friction -----
www.chockstone.org/TechTips/prusik.htm#Bachman/
Tri-State Grotto MySpace -----
----- www.myspace.com/tristategrotto/
Animated Knots by Grog ----- www.animatedknots.com/
White Nose Syndrome -----
<http://www.caves.org/grotto/dcg/wns-notice-to-cavers.pdf>
WV Caver ----- <http://wvcaver.speleo.us>
WNS -----
<http://www.caves.org/WNS/WNS%20Info.htm/>
Containment Procedures -----
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenosemessage.html/>
Crystal Grottoes Caverns -----
www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com

GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF AUGUST

Matt Amundson, Jerry Bowen, Carolyn Carter, John DiCarlo, Julie Garvin, Dave Knox, Shannon Griffin Miranda, Jordan Walthers

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



NSS Convention 2015

Or

“The Great Missouri Road Trip”

Judy and I left Thursday afternoon to get a head start on our Missouri trip. We made Huntington, WV our first stop. The girls at the desk recommended “Fat Patty’s” for dinner and “Fat Patty’s” didn’t disappoint - yum yum. A crowded Sports Bar with steaks and burgers.

Friday: We had a long drive planned to Hannibal, Missouri. We had reservations at “Regan’s Queen Ann, a Victorian B&B in the downtown Historic Area. The owners recommended an Italian Restaurant a couple of blocks away. Old fashion Spaghetti and Meat Balls, Each Meat Ball was the size of a softball. We stuffed ourselves and had enough left for another dinner. Two good nights in a row. We walked around the Historic Area and Riverfront to work off a little dinner when we spotted Jerry and Mary Bowen along the Riverfront also. Chatted for a while and discussed going to Mark Twain Caves the next day.

Saturday: Got to Mark Twain around 9:30 and got on the first tour of Cameron Cave. Mark Twain gave us a nice discount on both tours. Our Cameron Guide was very nice and had grandparents in WV. Our tour group was small with one rather large “Good Old Boy”. At every turn he would start with a loud “Golly!” Judy and I were very entertained. We saw Jerry and Mary in the gift shop between tours and compared stories. The Mark Twain Cave Tour was very crowded, but seeing all the historic signatures proved interesting. Judy and I went back into Hannibal for a gelato lunch, and then started for Waynesville. We made one stop in Jefferson City to check out the Kathy Bike Trail. Put that one on the “to do list”. On to Waynesville and Registration, saw some old friends, and then checked into our motel home for the next week. We stayed at the Baymont, which

was full of cavers, including Jerry and Mary. Dinner was at Cracker Barrel.

Sunday: Back to Registration and our bus for the Hydrology Trip. We briefly saw Ann Muldoon before boarding. Ben Miller was our Trip Leader. We first went to the natural entrance of Carroll Cave, and then started for our second stop. We were traveling on some back gravel roads. Missouri had been receiving some serious rain for weeks and roads had taken a hit. As our bus rounded a curve and headed up hill, we came to an abrupt halt. We bottomed out and could not move. Even borrowing some tools from a house along the road, we still couldn’t move. Called a wrecker, which took 2 hours to arrive, but finally freed us. Skipped “Stop Two”. Next stop was Ha Ha Tonka State Park. We had lunch by the lake then we went to the top of the hill and hiked down thru the Natural Bridge, in and out of the sink and down to the spring. We boarded the bus and stopped at the sinkhole entrances of River Cave. All the recent rain and flooding had completely filled one entrance and most of the other, If gates had not been installed? Would the damage have been as bad? Protecting one resource can have an effect on another. Next stop – Bennett Springs State Park. The local caving diving group gave a presentation on their work, followed by a visit to the spring. Missouri Springs are quite impressive with their great flow and with the recent rain all were putting on a great show. Nothing in WV to rival Missouri Springs. Dinner was at the “Hub”, a little German Restaurant with a nice waitress and decent food.

Monday: Our day started back at registration visiting some of the vendors and next year’s Convention Booth in Ely, Nevada. Judy and I are planning a four week road trip next year to Nevada and southern Utah. The folks from Nevada were very helpful. Back in the car, we headed for Branson to visit some commercial caves. A few miles before Branson we headed toward West Branson to visit Talking Rock Caverns. The GPS took us on Good Shepherd Highway. This was an unexpected treat. The highway had some of the most interesting road cuts we had ever seen. Multi layers of limestone and large conglomerate capped with sandstone. Most interesting. Talking Rock

Caverns was very busy. We got free tickets, but had a 45 minute wait for the next available tour. Time for a tailgate lunch catered by Judy. Talking Rock Cavern is one room 225 feet long by 10 to maybe 30 feet wide. With this information, I started to have second thoughts about wasting time visiting this cave. We entered at the top of the room, 125 feet up and my worries ended, very heavily decorated from end to end and top to bottom. The walkways and stairway were all concrete, very narrow, but quite interesting themselves. We were impressed. Leaving the cave, we realized we had to start back to the campground to make the "Howdy Party". We bypassed Marvel Caverns and Smallin Cave. Other members of Tri-State did get to Smallin later in the week and while not impressed with the cave itself. They were very pleased with the tour guides and their wealth of information about the cave and nearby civil war history. Sorry to have missed that one. The Howdy Party proved hot and lacking in food quality, but that seems to be the norm.

Tuesday: We went to the Bat Identification Workshop put on by Fish & Wildlife and the Missouri Bat Census folks. Fish & Wildlife have plenty of funding for bat work and are actively working with all organizations to locate, identify, count, and check of the health of all bats. Excellent program getting good results and building mutual support with government agencies and cavers. Tom and Terri Griffith attended also. Went to see Roubidoux Spring in Waynesville. Quite a sight must have been shooting up at least 2 feet from all the rain. Judy and I decided to go to Ozark Caverns to see the "shower formation". Directions left a lot to be desired, so used GPS. Stuck in traffic and road construction. In Missouri they "Oil" roads vs. paving here. Eight miles of led one way traffic for one guy marking edge of road. Made me proud of our WVDOT guys. Had a dinner scheduled with Dwight and Mary Deal, so no cave Tuesday. Had a nice Mexican dinner and visit with the Deals.

Wednesday: Road Trip! Met Ann and Jeff at 7:30am and we're off. Headed for Bluff Dwellers Cave in far southwest Missouri. We pulled into the parking lot and met the manager Mary who quickly announced "We were hers!" Mary was hilarious

and fun. A great private tour and free to boot. Great start to our day. Ann and I wanted to try to see as many states as possible, so we drove a couple miles south into Arkansas and had lunch in Sulphur Spring Arkansas. Back past Bluff Dwellers, then west towards Oklahoma. Drove to a roadside marker of the corner of Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Missouri, then a mile into Oklahoma. On to Prairie State Park. Neat road with rock overhangs entirely over both lanes in one place. Whoops! What was that? A quick turn into "Cave Bar and Grill" – A Biker's Bar. A big goat enclosure on one side of cave (more of a large shelter) and kitchen on left. Introduced ourselves to owner who gave us a short tour and told us some of the history. Originally "Triuitts Cave", with a past history of rock shop, restaurant and cave and now a biker bar. Great place, cold beer, and the food looked good. Back on the road, we made Prairie State at 4:30pm as the visitor's center was closed. They reopened for us and answered our questions. The staff left as we wondered around. It is unlawful to remove anything from most state parks, Missouri included. I must confess Judy and I are now guilty as accessories in breaking that law as we drove the get-a-way car. An unnamed female person in our group did remove an item from said park – a buffalo chip. Oh, the shame of it all. Out of the park and headed west into Kansas. Pictures again at the sign then turned around and onto Fantastic Caverns. Ann had called to check on closing time and was told 8pm. We arrived at 7:45 and decided to check. We got in and got a private tour for the four of us free again. Neat drive thru tour just for us. Pretty cave with the only drive thru tour in the country I believe? Stopped for dinner and back to the motel at 11:30pm. A good day -3 caves, 1 park and 4 states.

Thursday: Got to do a wild cave. Our first stop of the day is Railroad Cave. So named for mostly large straight borehole and an entrance at each end. We did a thru trip in boots, helmet, gloves and street cloths. A couple of nice formations and pictures of each entrance, so much for wild caving. Lunch in the parking lot, then off to Bridal Cave. Half off discount for entry. Bridal is a well decorated cave and we enjoyed the tour. Back to Waynesville and

dinner at Sweetwater Bar-B-Que. We went to the photo salon to finish the day.

Friday: We meet Jerry and Mary at 8:30 and headed off to find Miller Cave. Miller Cave is located on Fort Leonard Army Base. Jerry was stationed there in his younger days. The gate guard checked our driver's license and waved us thru. The caves are in a remote part of the base. We checked them out, took several pictures. They are large shelter caves with burials and petro glyphs. We returned to the motel, dropped off Jerry and Mary, had lunch, and picked up Ann and Jeff. We headed to Jacob's Cave. Half off again. Jacob's is a well decorated cave with level concrete walkways. It was back to the motel to clean up and then the banquet.

Saturday: We decide to see the highest point in Missouri on the way home. First stop of the day is "Bonn Terre Lead Mine". We got on the 12:30 tour. The mine is now a major destination for scuba divers. Huge mine with 150 feet of crystal water. They also do boat tours. Our next stop was the Missouri State Mine Museum, followed by Elephant Rocks State Park, and then Johnson Shut-in State Park. I asked the park people where Taum Sauk State Park (home of Missouri's high point) was located. They told me I could hike up their trail to it – thirteen miles each way or drive. 30 miles on the other side of the mountain. I had also asked directions at the Mine Museum and was told to take Rt. N. Missouri names their secondary roads with letters. Yes I was on Rt. N, but I needed the next county over Rt. N. Did I say I was very proud of WVDOT. I'll never say anything bad about WVDOT again. On the road again we finally find Taum Sauk State Park (no GPS location), and reach the highest point marker. We head for home and make it to Paducah, Ky. 9pm and the last room in Holiday Inn Express. Long day!

Sunday: On the road by 8, gas, food, and pee, home at 10:30pm

GOOD TRIP
JC Fisher

1st trip down Luoshui Kong, Feb 2015: Nathan Roser

After a day of being ill & 2 days of easy caving spent recovering, I was ready for a longer & deeper trip. I had a bit of trouble sleeping the night before on account of all the fireworks. It was the 1st night of Chinese New Year and I was woken up on at least 3 occasions by fireworks right outside the window. Nothing like thunder & green flashing in your face at 3 AM, and the usual roosters at 5 AM. After the usual Chinese food breakfast I headed off with Erin Lynch & Katie over to the cave. It's about a 20 minute hike on a rocky/muddy road, much easier than the trail to Niubizi. The name "Luoshui Kong" literally translates to Falling Water Pit, the true local name for it is still unknown, but it's the generic Chinese term for a stream insurgence. The entrance is a 30 ft wide hole underneath an overhang, looks similar to Crookshank at Friars Hole, but it's 720 ft deep with 13 rebelay!



Looking north along the valley with Luoshui Kong entrance

Hellhole was my deepest cave so far at around 600 ft & Germany Well my deepest pit at 217', so this was quite a step up. Erin got on rope 1st & started zipping past all the rebelay much faster than I could. Getting down was quite easy except for the 1st rebelay at the top lip, and a redirect about 250 ft down the Brits named "Deviation of Death". The biner hung so far out from the wall at a bad angle that passing it required some brute force one arm

holding to unweight the biner. The whole way down the walls are clean washed & have sticks & leaves, no place to be during monsoon season. We touched down on a gravel floor in a tall wide canyon. I was a bit nervous dangling on rope in the middle of a giant black space for a half hour but it so far has been one of the most amazing cave experiences I've had.



Erin Lynch beginning the descent

We walked out into the main borehole which is about 80 ft wide by 30 high, with a noticeable wind the whole way. Passage was dry then but the flood debris showed this place gets frightening. Walking is rather annoying since the stream cobbles are just the right size they move around when you step, and cause your feet to twist.



Narrower portion of the main borehole

After about 1 km of walking, passing some big stalagmites, a junction, and a 20 foot pitch we come to a 100 ft drop into blackness. That was explored further last year, our 1st lead was the top of a climb that a Polish caver Mateusz did the day before. We climbed up & at the top the floor was all popcorn with a 20 ft diameter passage going off. The pit below makes this area one big room about 100 ft diameter with large flowstone curtains everywhere.



Looking up from the 1st rebelay



Sketching above pit

We headed off with Katie & I on instruments & Erin sketching. Less than 200 ft later around a bend the passage abruptly ended at a dome that was only 6ft diameter in the ceiling, tiny drain in the floor, no airflow, weird. We saw about 6 different fault lines in the ceiling & a lot of the walls were crumbly rotten.

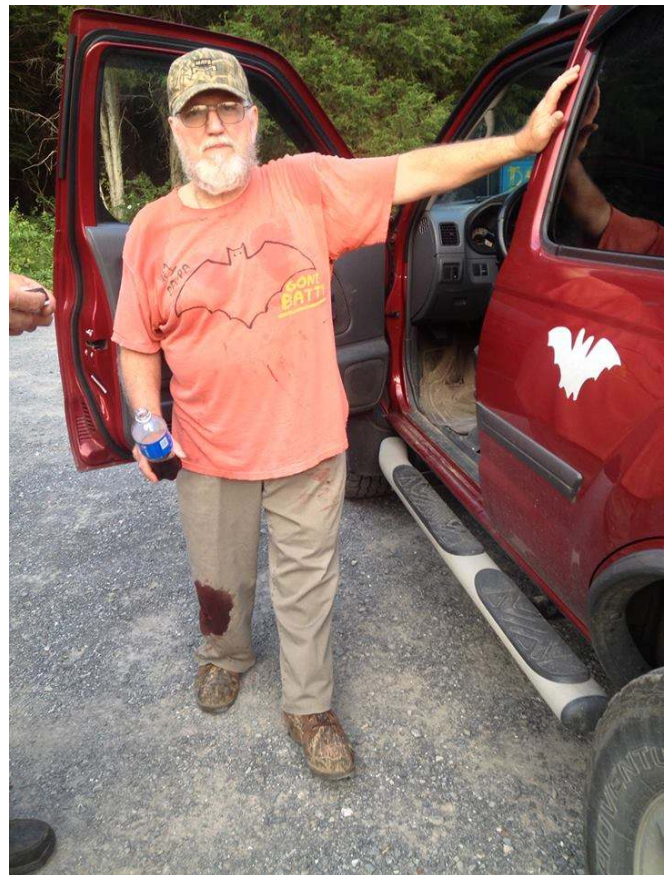


Gypsum lined rift past tight squeeze

After this disappointment we went off back down the rope to the junction with a borehole called Full Feather Jacket. This one is about 40 ft wide, 15-20 ft high and over a km long. Lots of gypsum sand, huge mud cracks, and black popcorn everywhere. It never floods so a trail is flagged the whole way through. Our 2nd lead was a 10 ft diameter tube going left off the main trunk. No air but if looked pleasant. Then around the 1st bend it became a crawlway on flowstone. It opened again to stooping height and then shrunk to a squeeze, not what most people think of Chinese caving. I pushed through it & had to throw a few rocks out of the way to fit, but

it got to hands & knees/log rolling dimensions. My companions were not eager to come through but I told them it gets bigger & they came anyway. Apparently New York cavers have a slight disagreement with China cavers over what constitutes "bigger". One more crawl around a pile of sand & gypsum crusts & stubbornness paid off, a bit. We stood up in a rift 3 ft wide & 55 ft high with lots of gypsum on the walls. It pinched off ahead & looking up showed no way on. Another weird disappointment.

We packed up the gear & began the trip out. Climbing up the big entrance pit took me an hour & 15 minutes & I didn't feel very tired afterwards, all that ascending on a rope treadmill & swimming paid off. It was about a 10 hour trip & dark when we came out. We returned to the farmhouse for dinner & I turned in around 11 PM.



Bob & a rock break didn't get along (JD)



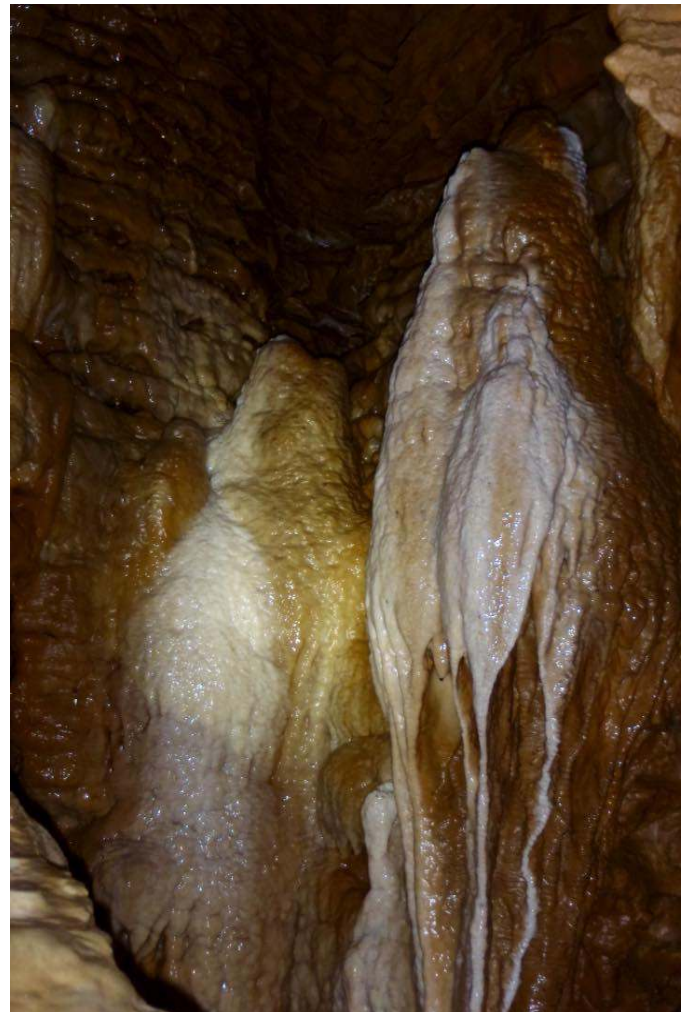
Critter Den Cave (TG)



Underground Bar in MO (JF)



Norman Water Fall (NF)



Cameron Cave, MO (JF)



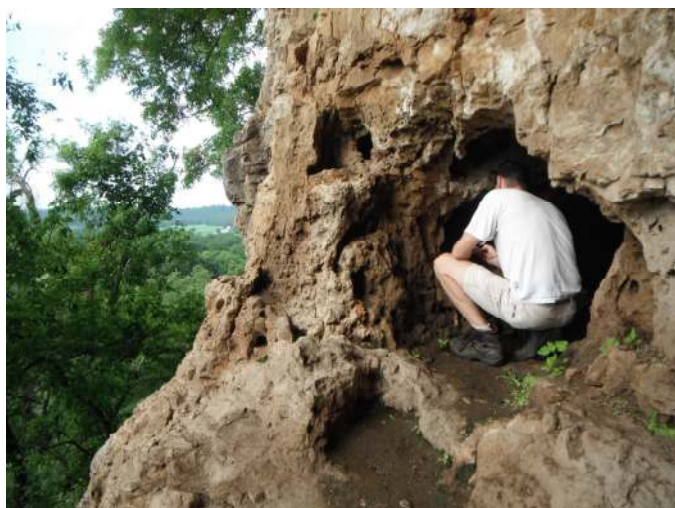
Carl showing his stuff at Convention (JF)



The Bat Mobile at Convention (JH)



Bridal Cave, MO (JH)



Jeff always lookin for critters-Convention (AM)

JH-Jeff Hajenga, AM-Ann Muldoon, JF-Judy Fisher, NF-Nikki Fox, TG-Tom Griffin, JD John DiCarlo



SAVIN CALENDAR

AUGUST 9TH - SEPTEMBER 19TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 9 Indiana Cave Capers	Aug 10	Aug 11	Aug 12  Meeting 7pm	Aug 13	Aug 14	Aug 15 Adam Stephen Dig 9:30 am
Aug 16	Aug 17	Aug 18	Aug 19	Aug 20	Aug 21	Aug 22
Aug 23	Aug 24	Aug 25	Aug 26	Aug 27 OTR Pre - Registration Ends	Aug 28	Aug 29 Boy Scout Powder Horn at Camp Rock Enon
Aug 30	Aug 31	Sep 1	Sep 2	Sep 3 OTR	Sep 4 OTR	Sep 5 Doo Dah Parade 10am OTR
Sep 6 OTR	Sep 7 OTR LABOR DAY	Sep 8	Sep 9	Sep 10	 PATRIOT'S DAY	Sep 12
Sep 13 GRAND PARENT'S DAY	Sep 14	Sep 15	Sep 16	Sep 17	Sep 18	Sep 19

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Nikki & Chris at Tubb Cave



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